Hiraethog Rural District Council

WELSH BOARD (
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ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

1952

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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To The Chairman and Members of The Hiraethog Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District during 1952.

Hiraethog Rural District is a member of the Western No. 2 Health Area and 50% of my time is taken up by the area, the other 50% by the County for duties connected with School Medical Inspections, Maternity and Child Welfare Service, Examination of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children, Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and Vaccination against Small-pox ; also other work delegated by the County Medical Officer of Health, e.g., examination of school canteen cooks and helpers, examination of young persons who are entering various colleges or who are entering the service of the Denbighshire County Council as clerks, etc.

In February, office accommodation and clerical assistance were provided. The office is pleasantly accommodated in a room at the County Health Clinic in Denbigh. Although Denbigh would have been the most central position for the office when the area was to have included the Aled Rural District, it is not now the most central for the whole of the area.

Great assistance has been given to me during the year by the Chairman of the Council, the officials and members of the staff, especially the Sanitary Inspector, who at all times has been very willing to give me any assistance I have asked for. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for this co-operation.

The report includes various tables, and I have reported on these under each heading.

Regarding schools in the area, the conditions prevailing in some of them have given rise to some concern. Some of the old school buildings are old and are very draughty and damp, also the sanitation in some leaves much to be desired. In several cases the existing conditions have been reported to the School Medical Officer. As, apparently, several schools in the County are in a similar condition, the School Medical Officer has asked for an individual report on all schools from the County Sanitary Inspector. When he has this information, he will be able to draw out a list of schools which require priority as regards repairs, sanitation, etc. Poor school buildings do not help in teaching the child about cleanliness, food hygiene, etc., especially if no water is supplied for the child to wash the hands before partaking of a meal. The teaching of housecraft, too, seems futile when the school is old and dusty. Children learn from their surroundings and adapt their standards to them.

With regard to housing, there are several cottages in the area in a very poor condition, and the families living under these conditions should be re-housed. In some cases, the people have never known better living conditions, and will not complain about any defects. One reason for this may be that the rent of a council house is prohibitive for them, and so they will not apply for a house. Consideration must be given to whether money should be spent on the house or on the food. Given better housing conditions, the standards of living would improve. It would give the future generation a better outlook on life. It is far easier to encourage young people to stay at home in decent rooms, and their leisure times could be filled up with hobbies in a decently lit and clean room.

Regarding water supplies, samples of water have been taken regularly throughout the district and submitted for bacteriological analysis. The results have varied from " Highly Satisfactory " to " Unsatisfactory." A table giving full details will be found later in the Sanitary Inspector's report. Any supply found to be unsatisfactory is followed up, and everything is done to improve the supply and so safeguard those using it. In some cases, it is difficult to do much as water is obtained from shallow wells. Matters will improve only when a comprehensive scheme is completed. There is usually a shortage of water during the summer months in some areas, but this did not cause much concern during the year as it was not of long duration.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

Area of District 93,079 (acres)
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1952) 5,193
Number of inhabited houses 1,787
Rateable Value £29,410
Sum represented by a penny rate £117

COMPARABILITY FACTOR :

For Births 1.16
For Deaths 0.88

DEATHS :

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during the year was 63, being 31 Males and 32 Females.

	1951	1952	England and Wales
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) ...	16.5	12.1	11.3
Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population)	14.5	10.7	—
Still-Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	0.79	0.19	0.35
Maternal Mortality rate	NIL	NIL	0.72
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	NIL	24.1	27,6

The causes of death are shown in the following tables, which also shows the 1951 figures for comparison.

	1951	1952		
	Total	Total	Males	Females
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Malignant Diseases :				
Stomach	3	2	1	1
Lungs, etc	—	1	1	—
Breast	1	—	—	—
Uterus	2	—	—	—
Other	6	8	2	6
Total Cancer Deaths	12	11	4	7
Leukaemia	—	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	15	15	7	8
Coronary Diseases	5	10	5	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	1	1	—
Other Heart Diseases	20	9	7	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3	2	1
Influenza	5	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	3	—	3
Bronchitis	4	1	1	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach, etc.	2	—	—	—
Gastritis, Diarrhoea, etc.	—	2	—	2
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	3	—	—	—
Prostatic Hyperplasis	—	—	—	—
Maternal Causes	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	1	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	6	4	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—	—
All other accidents	—	2	—	2
Suicide	—	—	—	—
Homicide	—	—	—	—
All Causes	84	63	31	32

The deaths occurred in the following age groups :—

1-5 years	2
5-30 years	NIL
30-40 years	2
40-50 years	3
50-60 years	6
60-70 years	11
70-80 years	23
80-90 years	13
90 years and over	3
Total	63

There were 63 deaths this year compared with 84 in 1951, and of these 50 deaths occurred in people over the age of 60 years.

Again this year, most deaths were due to diseases of the heart and vascular system, which is understandable as the greatest number of deaths occurred in elderly people.

Cancer in various places accounted for 11 deaths.

Five deaths were caused by infectious diseases, these being accounted for by 1 case of Bronchitis, 3 cases of Pneumonia, and 1 case of Meningitis.

Two deaths were due to lesions in the alimentary tract, one due to a congenital defect and reported on with the infant deaths. Four deaths were caused by other ill-defined diseases, and two deaths were accidental.

There were two infant deaths in the Rural District during the year. The causes of death were as follows :—

Aged 2 months—The death was sudden and completely unavoidable, and was due to a congenital defect in the bowel causing obstruction.

Aged 7 months—Cause of death was staphylococcal pneumonia. The child died in hospital after a stay of 6 weeks. It appears that everything was done to avoid this death.

There was also 1 still-birth registered during the year, making a total of three infant lives lost.

The still-birth rate is less than in 1951, and less than the rate for England and Wales.

There were again no deaths due to maternal causes, giving a maternal mortality rate of NIL.

BIRTHS :

The number of births registered in the Rural District were 83, being 38 Males and 45 Females. These were classified as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	37	42	79
Illegitimate	1	3	4
	38	45	83

	1951	1952	England and Wales 1952
Birth rate per 1,000 population (crude) ...	14.4	15.9	15.3
Birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	16.7	18.4	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Notifiable Diseases	TOTAL 1951	TOTAL 1952	At Ages								Number admitted to hospital
			Under 1 year	1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—45 years	45—65 years	65 years and over	Age unknown	
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumococcal Meningitis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever Observation ...	10	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	5	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	209	5	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentry	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	30	15	—	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	266	29	—	15	9	1	1	3	—	—	2

The above table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, with the figures notified during 1951 for comparison.

There were no cases of diphtheria, erysipelas, enteric fever, pneumonia, poliomyelitis, puerperal fever, dysentry or encephalitis notified in the area during 1952. The two cases of scarlet fever were not confirmed by the subsequent course of the illness.

Both cases of meningitis were admitted to hospital, but in one case the diagnosis was confirmed only after death.

Only 5 cases of measles were notified. During the previous year there was an epidemic, and this probably gave immunity to the age group usually affected.

15 cases of whooping cough were notified against 30 the previous year. Whether this had anything to do with inoculation it is too soon to tell.

1 case of chicken-pox, 1 case of mumps and 2 cases of rubella (German Measles) were notified by Head Teachers of various schools. These diseases, although infectious, are not notifiable.

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year were 29 against 266 the previous year. (These figures include tuberculosis cases.) In the case of measles and whooping cough, sometimes the disease is mild and the doctor is not called in. The heads of the households do not notify cases as they should under Section 144 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Also with immunisation and various new drugs for treatment, whooping cough often is a typical and may not be diagnosed as such.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

IMMUNISATION against whooping cough and diphtheria are carried out by the various General Practitioners and at the clinics. Mothers are still anxious to have their children protected against these diseases. During

the summer, immunisation was discontinued because there were cases of poliomyelitis in the adjoining area. Although this area has been clear from diphtheria for some time, it is still very essential for all children to be immunised. There are still cases of diphtheria notified in the country, and there is, therefore, greater danger for the unimmunised child in this area because the carrier rate amongst children could become high.

The number of cases immunised against whooping cough and diphtheria were as follows :—

Diphtheria :

Number immunised under 5 years 31
Number immunised over 5 years 2
Number given Booster doses 84

Whooping Cough :

Number immunised under 5 years 12
Number immunised over 5 years NIL

Combined doses of Whooping Cough and Diphtheria :

Number immunised under 5 years 28
Number immunised over 5 years NIL

Most children are immunised for whooping cough and diphtheria at the same time now, as this means only three injections, whereas to give them separately means five injections. Booster doses are given against diphtheria at 10 years of age, but this has been discontinued during the latter part of the year. Booster doses for whooping cough are given about 2 years after the initial injections, which are completed usually when the baby attains his first birthday.

VACCINATION. Mothers seem more anxious to have their children vaccinated against small-pox than they were last year. This is carried out by the patient's own doctor and also at the clinic. The following figures show the number of children vaccinated during the year :—

Number of Primary Vaccinations 30
Number of re-Vaccinations 2

The re-vaccinations were in respect of persons going abroad. One cannot overstress the importance of immunisation and vaccination.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The number of cases notified during the year was 5, being 3 Females and 2 Males. All these cases were Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In 1951, only two cases were notified. 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (2 Males and 2 Females) were notified as having been admitted to hospital, and 1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis (female) was notified as having been discharged from hospital during the year.

The number of patients on the tuberculosis register for the Rural District were as follows :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Beginning of January, 1952	28	27	16	10
End of December, 1952	14	17	3	4

The discrepancy in figures is due to the fact that the register has been checked with the registers kept by the Tuberculosis Officer and the County

Medical Officer of Health. Information was also received by the Health Visitors and the Sanitary Inspector who visited doubtful cases.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, revoke and replace the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930. The regulations no longer require a Medical Officer of Health to keep a register of tuberculosis cases notified, but a register is being kept for the Rural District as in the past. The 1930 Regulations provided for information to be sent to the Medical Officer of Health of a tuberculous patient entering or leaving a sanatorium or hospital, and this is also omitted from the present regulations, but this information is occasionally received. The information that a patient has entered a hospital or sanatorium is very useful as the Sanitary Inspector is able to visit the home for disinfection purposes. This does help to prevent the spread of the disease.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the Rural District during the year.

All the new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector or myself. The patients have been advised regarding the illness, disinfection, etc., and contacts have been referred for examination. Several cases of people suffering from tuberculosis have been referred regarding their housing conditions, and in some cases a new Council house has been allocated because of this.

A Tuberculosis Health Visitor has been appointed for the Western Area of Denbighshire, and she took up her duties towards the end of the year. I feel sure she will be most helpful in advising the patients in the best way to help themselves to recovery. Naturally, it will take her a long time to get around her district, which is very extensive.

Several children attending at the clinics and schools have been referred as contacts, and quite a number have been vaccinated with B.C.G.

The responsibility for institutional and out-patient treatment, including Mass Radiography Service, passed from the County Council to the Regional Hospital Board under the National Health Service Act, 1946, but the local authorities still remain responsible for the prevention, care and after-care work. The Health Visitor who is employed by the County Council works in association with the Chest Clinics. There is no after-care committee in the area, but a local committee of this type would be of great service.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

LABORATORY SERVICES :

Specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Conway. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are also tested bacteriologically.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :

The Ambulance Service is controlled by the County Medical Officer, and details of the service will be found in his Annual Report. The Ambulance Service for West Denbighshire is partly controlled from the Medical Officer of Health's Office at Colwyn Bay as this is more convenient, and Hiraethog's ambulance service is also partly controlled from here. Western No. 2 Area has an ambulance station at Denbigh, Ruthin, Cerrig, Llangernyw and Llanrwst, with one ambulance at each station, making a total of five. These deal with general and accident cases, and the stations

are manned by voluntary personnel. To supplement the ambulances, use is made of voluntary drivers of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and taxi proprietors for the conveyance of sitting cases. Ambulances to transport infectious diseases are sent from the hospitals concerned at Wrexham and Colwyn Bay.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE :

A full report on this service will be found in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :

These are held at Cerrig on the 1st Friday morning in the month, but patients from the area also attend at Llanrwst on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings each month.

The figures of attendances at Cerrig Clinic during the year were as follows :—

1st Visits	5
Re-Visits	16

The low figures at this clinic are due to the fact that for 5 clinics the Chapel where the clinic is usually held was being decorated, and use had to be made of the " Aelwyd Hall." This hall was not convenient for examination of expectant mothers.

The figures of attendances at the Llanrwst Clinic were as follows :—

1st Visits	27
Re-Visits	86

These figures include expectant mothers from the Hiraethog Rural District and Llanrwst Urban District.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS :

These are held at Cerrig on the 1st Friday morning each month and at Llangernyw on the last Thursday afternoon in each month. Babies also attend at Llanrwst on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons in the month as this is more convenient for some mothers.

The figures of attendances during the year were as follows :—

	Cerrig	Llangernyw	Llanrwst
1st Visits	4	11	77
Re-Visits	109	110	1270

The fact that the Cerrig clinic was held at the Aelwyd Hall for a period had an adverse effect on the attendance at this clinic during the summer months.

The Llangernyw Clinic is held once a month. For the latter six months the date has been changed to the last Thursday afternoon in the month. It was thought that the mothers would remember the date better.

There is a general feeling that there should be more Infant Welfare Clinics in the Hiraethog Rural District. Some mothers walk miles to the various centres, and I feel something should be done to help them. This could be done by the use of mobile clinics or by providing transport for them. My experience is that mothers living in the rural areas make more use of the clinics than those living in the actual village, except, of course, in a town like Llanrwst.

DENTAL CLINICS :

Expectant mothers and infants under 5 years of age are seen by appointment at Llanrwst, Denbigh and Wrexham. The main difficulty here is transport. Also there are now only two Dental Officers serving the whole County, one Dental Officer having resigned last October. It is difficult for the two to treat all the school children in the County as well as expectant and nursing mothers and also to give preventive treatment to toddlers, which is most essential. Parents should realise that their children's teeth should be seen at frequent intervals by a dentist. As dental treatment for children is free, there is no excuse for this to be neglected.

VENEREAL DISEASES :

Clinics are held at Llandudno, Chester and Bangor.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS :

These are held at Denbigh, Wrexham and Rhyl.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS :

Patients attend at either Corwen or Llanrwst on alternate Tuesdays. The Surgeon attends once every three months.

It has been felt that the Surgeon should attend clinics more frequently, and the attention of the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Board and the Wrexham, Powys and Mawddach Hospital Management Committee has been drawn to this matter. The difficulty is that there are not sufficient consultant orthopaedic surgeons, and, therefore, it was impossible to accede to the Council's request at the present time for the Surgeon to visit more often. Consideration is being given to increasing the number of visits of the Surgeon to the Corwen clinic, and sympathetic consideration will be given to increasing the number of visits of the Surgeon to Llanrwst Clinic as and when the staff position has improved.

NURSING SERVICES :

The area is served by 3 nurses, and they also do home nursing. One nurse lives at Llangernyw, one at Pentrefoelas, and one at Cerrigydrudion. Two Health Visitors serve the area and also attend clinics. They visit the children in their homes and are also School Nurses.

HOME HELP SERVICES :

The number of Home Helps in the District is 1.

SECTION 47. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Action had to be taken in respect of one aged lady in need of care and attention. She was living in very insanitary conditions, and there was no one willing to care for her. The Council applied to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to remove her to the Ruthin Social Welfare Establishment. The Order was granted and has been renewed every three months.

Before applying for an extension of the period, the relatives are contacted to see if their position has changed, and if they could help to care for this person, but so far none can help. The house is still unfit for habitation. The question of finding a cottage for her in the village has been discussed, but she is not willing to live anywhere except at her old house, although she tells me that she hopes to go to a relative soon.

Old people should be given consideration when houses are built in any village. Small bungalows are ideal and, in my opinion, more suitable than the elaborate " Homes for the Aged " which are situated miles from a village or town. The number of aged people is increasing, and it is difficult in a rural area to provide services for them. In a town, " Darby and Joan " Clubs serve a useful purpose. A " Meals on Wheels Service " is very useful and appreciated by the aged, and this is organised in some areas by the W.V.S. who do a lot to help cases needing assistance. These services are difficult to organise in a rural area, but if something on these lines could be done, it would be of benefit to the aged. Old people like to have various interests in their lives—it is not sufficient to provide homes for them.

The following report was submitted by the Sanitary Inspector.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

M. JONES ROBERTS.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE HIRAETHOG RURAL DISTRICT

GENERAL SUMMARY :

Complaints received	159
Nuisances discovered	497
Nuisances abated	441
Informal Notices served	245
Statutory Notices served	33
Informal Notices abated	227
Statutory Notices abated	31

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS :

Visits to Fried Fish Shops	7
,, ,, Tents, Vans and Sheds	20
,, ,, Factories and Workplaces	49
,, ,, Bakehouses	28
,, ,, Public Conveniences	19
,, ,, Licensed Premises	39
Visits re Refuse Collection and Disposal	290
,, ,, Rats and Mice	192
Visits to Schools	71
,, ,, Butchers' Shops	25
,, ,, Other shops and stalls	131
,, ,, Sewerage Works	49
,, ,, Housing Sites	34
Visits re Water Supply	439
,, ,, Drainage	427
,, ,, Housing Inspections	617
,, ,, Infectious Diseases	30
,, ,, Canteens	8
Visits to Milk Distributors	5

Visits re Milk Sampling	10
Visits to Food-preparing Premises	116
,, ,, Ice-Cream Premises	12
Miscellaneous Visits	21
Total Inspections	2639

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL :

Collections : Once per fortnight (with certain exceptions).

Premises from which refuse removed	584
Loads removed	437
Cost per load removed	£2/0/9 (approx.)
Total Cost	£890/7/10
No. of vehicles used	2
Cost per collection	1/2 (approx.)
Men employed	4
Total Mileage	6,607
Mileage per gallon (average of two lorries)	10.2

(The above are based on figures for the Financial Year 1951-52.)

For collection purposes, the District is divided into two parts, each being collected in alternate weeks so as to leave one lorry and two men continually free for other Council work on water supply, sewerage, etc.

Tips are sited at Capel Garmon, Pentrefoelas, Cerrigydrudion, Hafod (Betws-y-Coed), Llanddoget, Pandy Tudur and Eglwysbach. The tips at Llanddoget and Capel Garmon have been extended during the year, but whilst Planning permission was obtained for a site for a new refuse tip to replace that at Pandy Tudur, difficulty is being experienced as the area is Common Land. An alternative site is still being sought for the tip at Eglwysbach, which is now reaching its capacity. With the minimum of labour available, tipping is carried out as far as practicable in adherence to the rules for controlled tipping. Each is periodically baited and kept free of rodent infestation.

SALVAGE :

No salvage collection is made, as the Council, having regard to past experience, feel that the cost of collection and ultimate baling and transport, would only be a charge on the district. Any paper collected in bulk is handed over to the Llanrwst Urban Authority.

RODENT CONTROL :

During the year, the Council appointed a Rodent Operator on a part-time basis of three days a week, with an adjustment in the number of days when baiting and treatment is being carried out. The arrangement has proved satisfactory, and the majority of the premises in the area were surveyed during the year. As far as infestations are concerned, it is becoming increasingly apparent that it is the small-holding and the dwelling-house keeping pigs and fowls that are the chief offenders. Occupiers in general, however are becoming increasingly conscious of damage and loss caused by rats—this being apart from the gradual realisation of obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which is a natural outcome of periodic inspections.

The following is a tabulated indication of work executed under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :—

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All other (including business premises) (4)	Total (5)
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	811	654	204	1681
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification ; (b) survey or otherwise	(a) Nil	7	Nil	6	13
	(b) 12	315	602	64	993
3. Number of properties inspected (Section 11) which were found to be infested by rats	Major 2	3	54	4	63
	Minor 6	19	84	3	112
4. Number of properties inspected (Section 11) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1
5. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	8	7	Nil	7	23
6. Number of notices served under Section 4—					
(1) Treatment	Nil	22	139	7	168
(2) Structural Works (i.e. proofing)	Nil	3	Nil	2	5
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Legal proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Number of " Block control " schemes carried out					1

ICE CREAM.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district. An application for registration to make ice cream was made during the year, but was refused due to the unsuitability of the premises at which manufacture was proposed. One new registration was however made for the sale of pre-packed cream—bringing the total to three in the district.

Three vehicles from adjoining districts retail ice cream in the area during the summer months.

Vehicles and premises were found to be satisfactory upon periodic inspections.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

Only one shop carries out the trade in the area ; no action was necessary in its respect.

LICENSED PREMISES.

No. in district	13
No. of inspections	39

Pronounced improvements, which were sorely needed, have been secured during the year as regards glass-washing facilities, sanitary conveniences and other repairs, to many public houses. In two cases, fairly extensive improvements are being undertaken.

It is gratifying to note that whilst improvements are long overdue, the Brewers in each case have taken immediate steps to remedy matters to which their attention has been drawn. It is with the FREE House that the main difficulty is experienced. Throughout, close co-operation has been maintained by the Council with the Licensing Authorities in all remedial measures whch have been asked for.

In two cases, notices had to be served under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Clean Food Byelaws, for unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in hotel kitchens.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933-51 :

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the area, all meat being brought into the district from Corwen and Colwyn Bay. Licences under the above Act are, however, held by 40 persons.

The only animals which were slaughtered and inspected in the district were swine fever contacts.

SHOPS :

No. in district	39
No. of inspections made	156
No. of notices served	9

The majority of shops in the district comprise of combined shops and dwelling houses—there being very few of the larger type of shops. Generally, all were well maintained during the year, and no statutory notices were required to be served.

There are five butchers' shops in the area, but improvements are still necessary despite those already executed. Only one premises is registered for the sale and manufacture of sausages.

UNSOUND FOOD SEIZED DURING THE YEAR :

The following articles of food were condemned during the year, as being unfit for human consumption :—

3 x 1 lb. 14 ozs. tins—Pears (Bartlett).

3 x 1 lb. 4 ozs. tins—Damsons in Syrup (Armavale).

17 lbs. Cheshire Cheese.

1 tin Carnation Evaporated Cream—full cream.

1 x 14 ozs. tin Peeled Tomatoes (Italian).

3 x 17 ozs. tins Olida Luncheon Meat (Belgian).

3 tins unsweetened Evaporated Cream—full cream (Irish).

3 x 12 ozs. Ham Loaf (Uraguayan).

2 x 15 ozs. tins Orange Segments (French).

3 x 16 ozs. tins Pilchards.

3 x 3 ozs. pots Meat Paste.

1 x 7 ozs. tin Luncheon Meat (French).

18 x 1 lb. 4 ozs. Red Plums in heavy syrup.

8 x 1 lb. 3 ozs. tins Processed Peas—Benedict.

8 lbs. Bacon—middle cut.

1 x 14 ozs. tin Quartered Apple (Ulster).

6 x 1 lb. 11 ozs. tins Victoria Plums.

10 x 4 ozs. jars Sardine Spread.

16 x 20 fluid ozs. Grape Fruit Juice (Trinidad).

29 lbs. Pork—Shoulder.

No statutory action was necessary in respect of unsound food.

BAKEHOUSES.

No in district	4
Inspections made	28
Notices served	1

With one exception all were well maintained during the year. The lack of cleanliness in the one was remedied following the serval of an informal notice. Structural improvements were secured to one bakehouse.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Number of			M/c line No.
			Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities † ...	1	12	24	4	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	2	16	19	1	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	6	—	—	3
TOTAL		31	49	5	—	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	4	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)— (a) Insufficient	9	1	1	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	1	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	5	5	1	—	—	60

FOOD BYELAWS AND FOOD HYGIENE.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, saw their operation for the first full year, and proved their worth when tackling offending food handlers. No statutory action was instituted during the year under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Whilst the standard of food hygiene in the district is generally good, and improving, much remains to be done. With this in view, the Council decided to stimulate interest by holding film shows in various centres ; films were to have been of a general character, depicting food handling in various countries; the spread of food borne diseases, and others. Up to the present, however, it has been impossible to continue in the matter due to the lack of a 16 m.m. film projector. Food hygiene education is essential, as it is through education and not legislation that true and lasting improvements in food handling can be attained.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

No. of elementary schools	13
No. of modern secondary schools	1
No. of private schools	1
No. of visits made	71
No. of informal notices served	1
No. of statutory notices served	1

The position regarding the sanitation of schools in the district shows slight improvement. Following the serval of a Statutory Notice, the Education Authorities have now provided a pit for the disposal of excreta at Pandy Tudur Council School. Whilst this is an improvement, it does not constitute the ideal, and it is to be hoped that the Education Authority will install a water carriage system upon completion of the Pandy Tudur Main Water Supply Scheme. Work has commenced at Llangwm Controlled School for the installation of water closets, urinal, and lavatory basins—a Statutory Notice was served by the Council for these improvements. Improved drainage arrangements are expected to be carried out at Capel Garmon Council School in the near future, apparently this has been held up due to difficulties arising from the proposed purchase of adjoining land.

The work of converting to water closets at Llanfihangel G.M. School has now been completed ; similar work at Gwytherin Council School with the installation of lavatory basins and clothes drying room, all housed in a newly-constructed annexe, is virtually completed, and awaits connection of the Council's Sewerage Scheme.

HOUSING

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (Public Health and Housing Acts)	617
(b) No. of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	191

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVAL OF FORMAL NOTICES.

No. of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	132

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders made	Nil

No. of dwelling houses where undertakings accepted 6

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 126

No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serval of formal notices 6

The Housing Survey has still to be completed, up to present only 235 have been comprehensively surveyed and classified. The actual value of the completion of survey is doubtful, as it is impossible to forsee when a vigorous housing drive can be undertaken, correlated information will tend to be outdated, when the time arrives. Much housing work required to be done, but the Housing Act, 1949, with its "Target Standard" does, and will not, greatly improve matters unless a considerable reduction is permitted in the required standard to obtain a grant. Legislation along the pattern of the Housing Rural Workers Act appears called for, as local conditions in rural areas very often demand different standards. The essentiality of curtailing the drift of population from country to town, necessitates an Act to deal solely with the housing problem; rural housing cannot be dealt with piecemeal with that of the built-up areas. De-population is one of the greatest problems affecting rural areas, and good housing would do much to allay it. The stone rubble walled house with slate roof, exhibiting such sanitary defects as low headrooms, restricted window areas, dampness, general structural defects, entire absence of drainage facilities, and dependence very often on intermittent well or spring supplies must be brought to a fit standard or swept away.

With their house-building programme, the Council commenced to encroach on the problem and six houses were closed on undertakings during the year, as being unfit for human habitation under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936. It is expected that some of these will be reconstructed at a later date.

Houses surveyed under the Rural Survey show their present classification as :—

Class 1. Satisfactory in all respects 23%

Class 2. Minor defects 31%

Class 3. Requiring repairs, structural alterations and improvements 28%

Class 4. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable cost 18%

OVERCROWDING.

This is not a serious problem in the district, but no actual figure is available. 16 cases were abated during the year by re-housing in Council Houses.

NEW HOUSES.

Completed during the year :

Llanddoget 2

Cerrigydrudion 12

Eglwysbach 10

In course of construction :

Llangernyw 14

Departmental approval has been given for the erection of 10 houses at Capel Garmon. One house only was built by private enterprise during the year. Five houses are in the course of construction at Pentrellyncymer by the Forestry Commission.

WATER SUPPLY—GENERAL.

No of visits and inspections 439
Samples taken from Public Supplies 28
Samples taken from Private Supplies 11
Satisfactory 5
Unsatisfactory 6
New domestic connections to Council's Mains 9
Approved domestic connections from private sources 11

The usual shortage of water was felt during the summer months, but was not of a long duration. Water had to be carried to Pandy Tudur, Llanddoget, Rhydlydan, Tai-Cerrig (Llangwm). The intake to the reservoir supplying Cerrigydrudion, Cefn Brith and Glasfryn became short, but supplies were maintained by economy measures. Several wells and spring supplies to various scattered farms and houses were interrupted for short periods.

No great advancement can be claimed for the Llyn Conwy Comprehensive Scheme during the year, but the determination of the Council in the face of all difficulties does show definite indication of bearing fruit.

NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES AND POPULATION SERVED FROM PUBLIC MAINS

Parish	Connections direct to house	Population served	No. of Standpipes	No. served by Standpipes
Cerrigydrudion	162	465	5	98
Llanfihangel G.M.	21	69	Nil	Nil
Llangwm	11	33	1	6
Llanrwst Rural	17	51	3	33
Tir Ifan	10	30	4	45
Llangernyw	52	156	1	5
Gwytherin	11	33	3	27
Eglwysbach	109	329	Nil	Nil
Llanddoget	No Public Mains			
Pentrevoelas	Private Mains Supply			

NEW WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

No new schemes were brought into operation during the year, but the water supply scheme for Pandy Tudur is nearing completion. This supply will be treated and chlorinated, and is constructed so as to be incorporated in the proposed Llyn Conwy Scheme.

Exensions to the mains supplies were carried out at Cerrigydrudion and Llanfihangel G.M., whilst improved collection and storage facilities are being provided for in works carried out to existing water supply services at Nebo and Llangwm.

The Council have had under consideration the possibility of providing a main supply to the hamlet of Rhydlydan.

The following schedules give details of Reports on Water Supplies taken during the year.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

In parts per million of water.

Chemical Analysis	Yspytty Ifan	Gwytherin	Cerrigydrudion	Llangernyw	Melinycoed	Llanfihangel G.M.	Eglwysbach	Llangwm	Pentrevoelas	Pandy Tudur
Total solid matter in solution ...	100.0	80.0	40.0	80.0	115.0	60.0	80.0	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN
Nitrogen in Nitrates	2.0	1.2	0.2	1.0	1.25	0.0	0.38			
Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Chlorine in Chlorides	13.0	14.0	11.0	14.0	11.7	10.0	11.0			
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F ...	0.04	0.12	Nil	0.4	0.16	1.5	2.27			
Free and Saline NH3	—	—	0.02	—	—	—	0.04			
Albuminoid Nitrogen	—	—	—	—	—	0.012	—			
Albuminoid NH3	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.02	—	0.15			
Amoniacal Nitrogen	—	—	—	—	—	0.066	—			
Metals	Nil	Zinc 0.5	Trace Copper	Zinc 0.6	Nil	Iron 0.4 Manganese 0.21	Nil			
Microscopical examination of sediment	Trace Algae	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Temporary Hardness	25.0	30.0	Nil	60.0	3.0	2.5	15.0			
Permanent Hardness	40.0	25.0	30.0	5.0	3.0	1.0	Nil			
pH Value	6.0	6.8	6.2	6.4	6.7	8.2	6.8			

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Name of Supply and Date Sampled.	Plate Count. Yeastrel Agar 2 days at 37 deg. C. Per ml.	Probable No. of B. Coli Test 2 days at 37 deg. C. Per 100 ml.	Approx. No. of Faecal and Non-Faecal Coli. Per 100 ml. Faecal	Non-Faecal	Remarks.
BETWS G.G. (Well Supply).					
16-4-52	10	25	0	0	Satisfactory for a small number of people.
CAPEL GARMON (Well Supply). Village Centre.					
18-2-52	2	1	0	0	Satisfactory.
15-7-52	3	0	0	0	Satisfactory.
COUNCIL HOUSES SUPPLY.					
14-7-52	1	4	4	0	Class 2. Small numbers faecal coli.
MOUNTAIN VIEW.					
18-2-52	3	25	0	0	Satisfactory for a supply to a small number of persons.
CERRIGYDRUDION (Mains Supply)					
9-1-52	3	0	0	0	Class 1. Highly satisfactory.
CEFN BRITH					
9-1-52	0	0	0	0	Class 1. Highly satisfactory.

Name of Supply and Date Sampled.	Plate Count. Yeastrel Agar 2 days at 37 deg. C. Per ml.	Probable No. of B. Coli Test 2 days at 37 deg. C. Per 100 ml.	Approx. No. of Faecal Non-Faecal Coli. Per 100 ml. Faecal	Non-Faecal	Remarks.
GLASFRYN.					This sample showed a
9-1-52	1	25	0	0	moderate number of coliform bacilli.
DINMAEL (Spring Supply).					
16-4-52	100	600	600	0	Unsatisfactory.
EGLWYSBACH.					Class 1. Highly satisfac-
3-6-52	0	0	0	0	tory.
GWYTHERIN (Mains Supply).					Class 1. Highly satisfac-
3-6-52	1	0	0	0	tory.
LLANDDOGET (Top Well).					Presumptive count high.
17-3-52	17	80	0	0	No evidence of recent excretal pollution.
LLANFIHANGEL G.M. (Mains Supply).					Class 1. Highly satisfac-
9-1-52	0	0	0	0	tory.
LLANGERNYW (Mains Supply).					
3-6-52	8	80	80	0	Moderately Contaminated

MELIN-Y-COED (Mains Supply).					
30-1-52	50	50	5	0	Class 4. Unsatisfactory.
30-1-52	10	25	0	0	Class 4. Unsatisfactory.
30-1-52	20	25	0	0	Class 4. Unsatisfactory.
17-3-52	0	5	0	0	Satisfactory for small rural supply.
15-7-52	3	0	0	0	Class 1. Highly satisfactory.
TY NANT (Well Supply).					
16-4-52	4	0	0	0	Highly satisfactory.
NEBO (Spring Supply).					
18-2-52	5	0	0	0	Highly satisfactory.
15-7-52	1	2	2	0	Class 2. Satisfactory. Small numbers of faecal coli.
PANDY TUDUR (Well Supply).					
3-6-52	22	35	35	0	Moderately contaminated
PENTREVOELAS (Mains Supply—Private).					
17-3-52	0	5	0	0	Satisfactory for small rural supply.
RHYDYCRAEAU (Stream Supply).					
15-9-52	6	0	0	0	Highly satisfactory.
TAN LAN (Spring Supply).					
12-8-52	7	0	0	0	Highly satisfactory.
YSPYTY IFAN (Mains Supply).					
17-3-52	3	13	0	0	Not up to required standard, but reasonably satisfactory for small number of people.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

No. of visits and inspections	427
No. of informal notices served	69
No. of statutory notices served	8
No. of houses water closets installed	71
No. of houses waste water provided	76

EGLWYSBACH.

The work of sewerage and sewage disposal for this village, and the hamlets of Graig and Brymbo, was completed during the year. 38 have to the present been provided with waste water drainage and have converted from pail closets to water closets. All other properties are in the course of conversion, or have intimated their intention ; in every case, a piped indoor water supply and sink is being insisted upon.

The village and hamlets are supplied from the Conway and Colwyn Bay Joint Water Supply Board.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES PENDING.

Departmental authorisation has been given to the proposed scheme at Gwytherin.

A Public Inquiry was held in November at Pentrevoelas regarding the proposed scheme for the village. Up to the present no further intimation has been received.